

### Only New Jersey Stand of *Sibbaldiopsis Tridentata* Destroyed

The only occurrence of *Sibbaldiopsis* (*Potentilla*) *tridentata*, the Three Toothed Cinquefoil, in the State of New Jersey, seems likely to be entirely obliterated, by the construction of a monument to the soldiers and sailors of New Jersey, on the summit of High Point, on Kittatiny Mountain. This sturdy alpine-arctic plant, which is to me closely associated in the mind's eye of memory, with high summits all along the Appalachian Ranges, from Mount Katahdin, Maine, to Mount Pisgah, in North Carolina, formerly flourished in a space perhaps 200 feet square, on the summit of High Point, the highest place in New Jersey, at an elevation of 1825 feet above sea. So far as I know it was the only occurrence of the plant between the Taconics at the New York-Massachusetts-Connecticut corner, and the higher summits of the Blue Ridge in northern Virginia, above 4,000 feet, in the area of the proposed Shenandoah National Park, with the exception of a small stand covering only a few square yards, on the summit of Mount Beacon, in the Highlands of the Hudson, opposite Newburgh, N. Y., at an elevation of 1640 feet.

I recall enjoying the sight of the plant, in bloom, several years ago, before High Point became a park and while it was still part of the estate of the late Col. Anthony R. Kuser, who gave his estate, in 1923, to New Jersey. In his will, filed since his death a few months ago, Col. Kuser bequeathed \$50,000 to erect a sort of Bunker Hill monument, 200 feet high, as a war memorial on the summit of the Point. I was there on April 27, and found the summit covered with blocks of light gray Vermont granite, which are to rise in the tower above the reddish gray Devonian sandstones and conglomerates of the ridge. A fifty foot square base of concrete, heaps of blasted rock, water tanks, construction sheds, etc, covered all of the area where *Sibbaldiopsis* once grew and I could not find a single plant remaining. Possibly some may survive after the work is done and the debris of construction cleared, but it seems unlikely. Of course there is plenty of the species on New England summits but as this was the only stand of the plant in New Jersey, it seems unfortunate, from the point of view of that portion of the public including botanists, that one of them was not at

hand to plead for the conservation of *Sibbaldiopsis*, which to my mind, was one of the most interesting features of the vegetation of the summit. Quite likely the Kuser family would have given consideration to the matter, if they had been asked, but I am afraid it is too late now.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### **Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota<sup>1</sup>**

This very attractive volume describes all the trees and shrubs known as native or naturalized in Minnesota and in addition those frequently cultivated in parks and gardens. While written primarily for those whose interest in plants is general rather than technical, it is interesting to note that the authors have not tried to write down to their public, but expect the public to show enough interest to read the introduction, learn a very few botanical terms, and accept accurate descriptions and careful discrimination between species. A good glossary makes this easy for those with no botanical training. The nomenclature follows the International Code as revised by the Brussels Congress of 1910. Synonyms are given where other names are used in familiar manuals.

There is a key to families based on strictly botanical characters, chiefly of the flower, a key to genera based on leaf and stem characters and, under the genera, keys to the species. The descriptions are clear and complete, including botanical characteristics, ranges and habitats, notes on growth, uses or other items of interest. The book is well illustrated with line drawings of fruit and flowers and numerous half tones of whole trees or shrubs or of branches. (A rather amusing error is in using the cut of *Rubus parviflorus* correctly on the jacket but inverted in the text.) The book is well bound, printed on good quality paper with a complete index. It should prove of real value not only to residents of Minnesota but to those in neighboring states.

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<sup>1</sup> *Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota*, Carl Rosendale and Frederic K. Butters, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minn. Pages vii+385, \$4.00.